



# Comparing children's lives and well-being

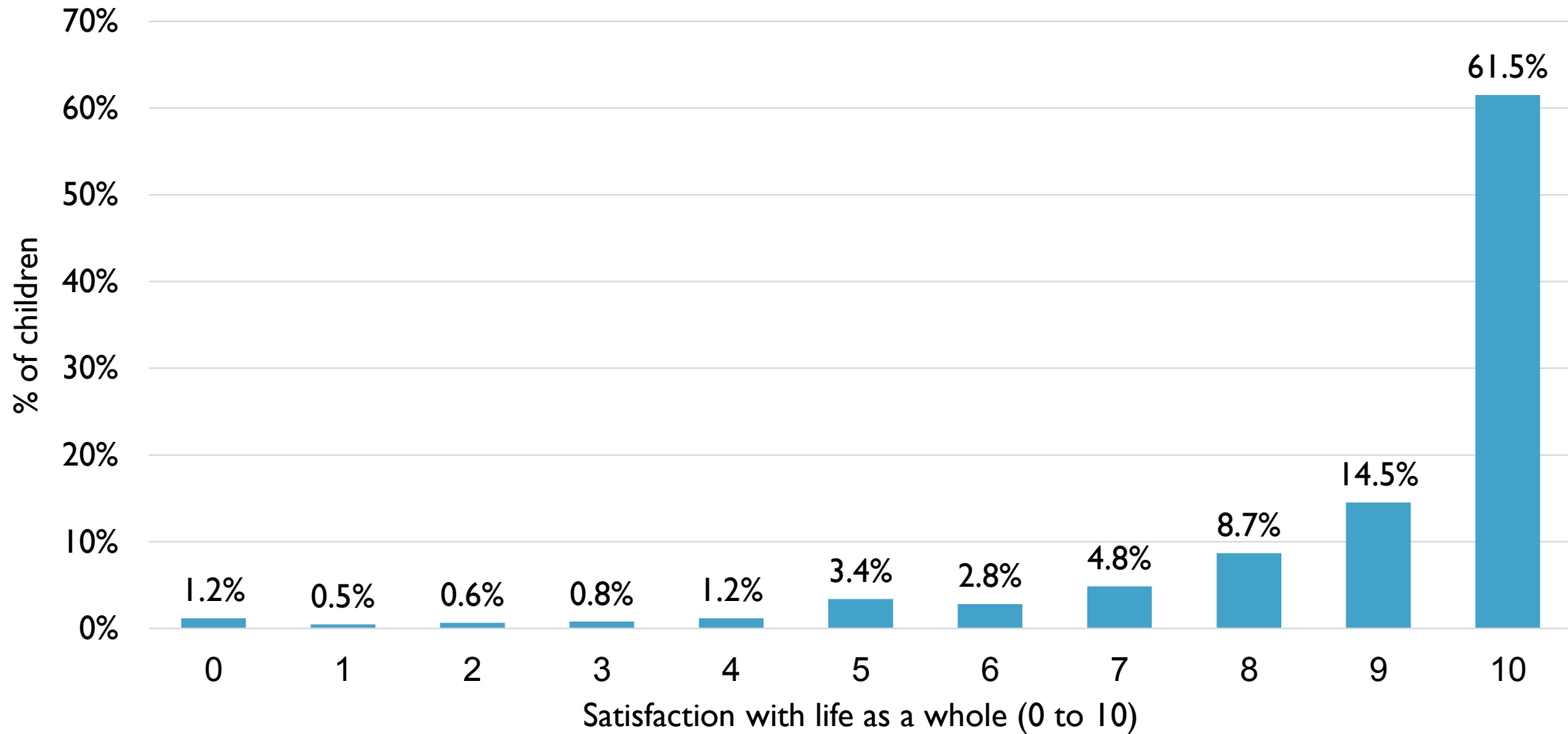
## Key messages from initial report

# Challenges of making international comparisons

Technical issues

Issues of meaning

# Distribution of life satisfaction



# Three different approaches to comparisons

What should we compare ... ?

- Means or mean ranks
- % with low well-being
- Inequalities of well-being

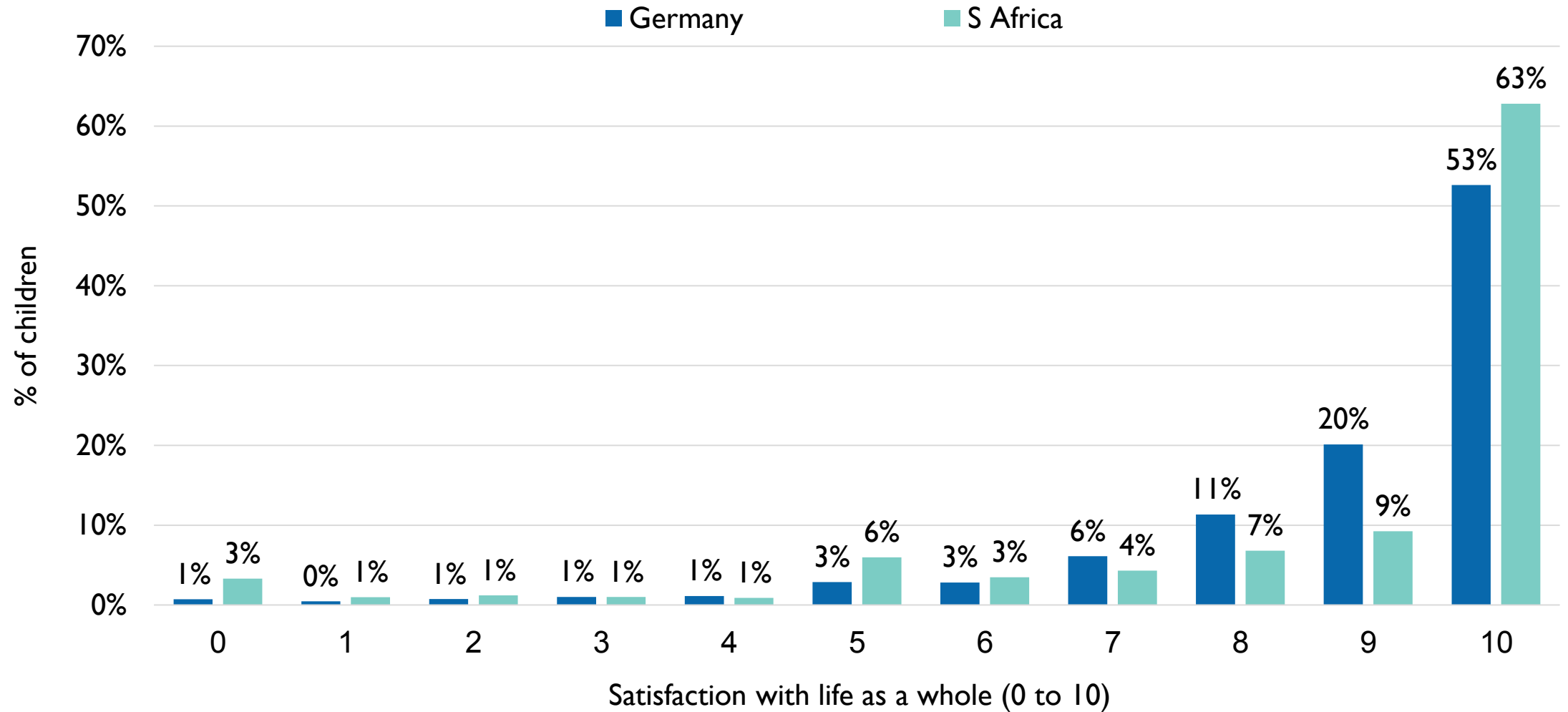
Linked to three different goals

- Increase average happiness or satisfaction
- Reduce misery
- Reduce inequality

# Rankings of satisfaction with life as a whole

	Mean	Mean rank	% with low well-being (<5 out of 10)	% with very high well-being (10 out of 10)	Inequality (standard deviation)
<b>Algeria*</b>	5	5	5	5	7
<b>Colombia*</b>	2	3	2	3	2
<b>Estonia</b>	8	8	7	8	6
<b>Ethiopia</b>	13	14	10	14	11
<b>Germany</b>	9	12	9	13	8
<b>Israel</b>	4	4	6	4	5
<b>Nepal</b>	12	11	13	9	13
<b>Norway</b>	7	6	4	7	4
<b>Poland*</b>	10	10	11	11	10
<b>Romania</b>	1	1	1	2	1
<b>S Africa*</b>	14	9	15	6	15
<b>S Korea</b>	15	15	14	15	14
<b>Spain*</b>	6	7	3	10	3
<b>Turkey*</b>	3	2	8	1	9
<b>UK*</b>	11	13	12	12	12

# Comparing distributions



# Comparing Germany and South Africa

	Mean	Mean rank	% with low well-being (<5 out of 10)	% with very high well-being (10 out of 10)	Inequality (standard deviation)
Germany	9	12	9	13	8
S Africa*	14	9	15	6	15

# Are comparisons meaningful?

- Linguistic issues: Do words, phrases, statements and questions mean the same in different languages?
- Cultural response issues: Do children (and people in general) tend to respond differently to the same types of response options in different countries or cultures?

Research on adult subjective well-being has attempted to tackle these issues through several means, including:

- Demonstrating correlations between macro indicators and mean national subjective well-being. **But do we have enough countries and what are the salient macro indicators?**
- Using 'anchoring vignettes' within questionnaires. **For the future?**

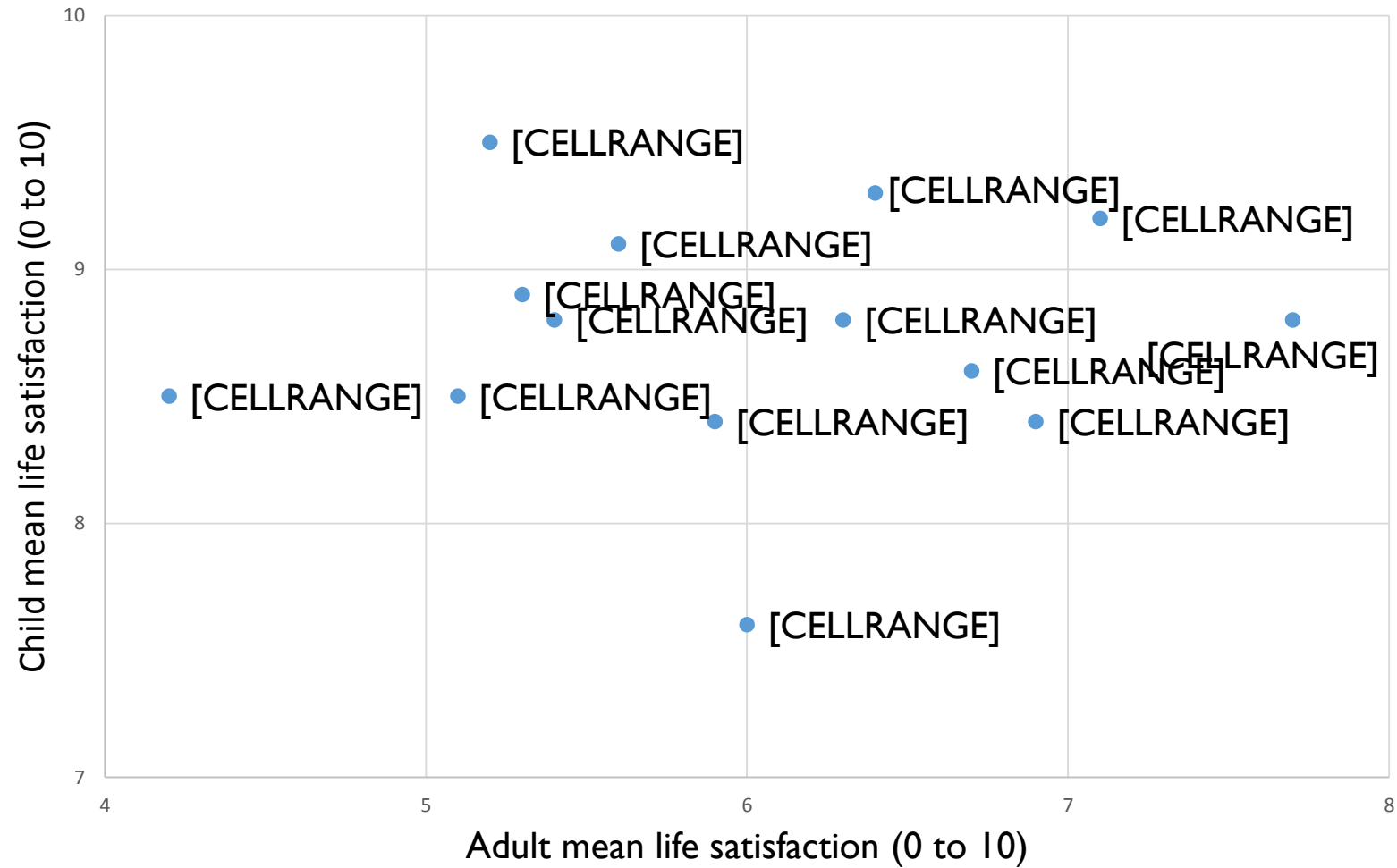


# Satisfaction and agreement

## Rankings for family and home questions

	Safe	Place to study	Parents listen	Has good time	Parents treat fairly	House or flat	People lived with	Other people in family	Family life
Algeria*	9	10	4	6	3	6	5	7	2
Colombia*	5	5	2	9	1	3	6	3	4
Estonia	4	4	9	2	9	9	8	12	9
Ethiopia	15	15	15	14	11	14	14	14	15
Germany	10	9	8	12	10	11	10	9	11
Israel	2	7	3	5	7	4	3	4	5
Nepal	13	11	13	15	13	13	15	13	13
Norway	3	3	1	1	4	7	4	2	8
Poland*	1	1	5	3	6	5	11	n/a	7
Romania	11	2	10	10	2	2	2	1	3
S Africa*	12	14	14	11	14	8	13	10	6
S Korea	14	12	11	13	15	15	12	5	14
Spain*	8	8	6	7	5	12	7	8	10
Turkey*	7	6	12	4	12	1	1	6	1
UK*	6	13	7	8	8	10	9	11	12

# Child and adult life satisfaction



# Where does that leave us?

- Comparing means (or % with low well-being or inequalities) between countries is potentially useful, if we can explain the reasons for variation

But, in addition:

- We can use the mean scores in other useful comparative ways
- Most (80% to 90%) of the variation is within countries not between countries, so we can look at that in a comparative way too
- There are other types of comparative analysis we can do including:
  - Looking at relative positive and negative aspects of life
  - Looking at sub-group differences
- There are other important topics covered in the survey – bullying, time use, children's rights

# Contextualisation

# Local area

## Countries: Poland, South Africa

Children's local areas can provide spaces for them to spend time away from home, playing and spending time with friends. However, they can also be spaces in which children experience threat and fear. For example, children in South Africa reported very low levels of satisfaction with the spaces available to them in their local areas. This may be a result of high levels of violence and crime, with children either exposed to this when out in their local area, or prevented (by choice or by parental wishes to protect children) from accessing spaces in their local area. In contrast to this experience, children in Poland reported very high levels of satisfaction with the spaces available to them. Among the reasons for this may be interventions undertaken under the Polish National Programme of Action against Social Exclusion, which included the My Sports Field Programme (running 2008-2012) which made sports infrastructure available to children and young people within all Polish municipalities. Additionally, the Happy Schools Programme which ran from 2009-2014, provided financial aid to primary schools which could be used for modernisation or creation of playgrounds for children.

# **Absolute and relative scores**

# Mean scores for selected satisfaction questions

	Family life	Things	Friends	Life as student	Local area	Time use	Body	The future	Life as a whole
Algeria*	9.53	8.10	8.51	9.32	8.23	8.34	8.76	8.93	9.13
Colombia*	9.40	9.45	8.72	9.16	8.95	9.02	9.47	9.24	9.42
Estonia	9.18	8.96	8.71	8.09	8.53	8.50	8.15	8.40	8.97
Ethiopia	8.44	7.20	8.23	9.01	8.02	8.31	8.69	7.71	8.63
Germany	9.02	9.19	9.07	7.94	7.82	8.53	8.05	8.95	8.82
Israel	9.36	9.40	8.83	8.41	8.82	8.72	9.15	8.72	9.20
Nepal	8.80	8.77	8.56	9.00	8.44	8.34	8.57	5.78	8.65
Norway	9.31	9.46	9.22	8.74	9.36	8.62	8.26	8.86	9.00
Poland*	9.19	9.27	8.52	8.05	8.70	8.71	8.39	8.96	8.81
Romania	9.61	9.57	8.96	9.30	9.27	9.18	9.35	8.97	9.51
S Africa*	9.00	8.74	8.36	8.74	7.78	8.35	8.87	7.87	8.56
S Korea	8.86	8.54	8.55	8.02	8.00	7.91	7.41	8.02	8.10
Spain*	9.13	9.28	8.99	8.17	8.69	8.56	8.63	8.66	9.02
Turkey*	9.61	9.19	8.96	9.10	8.88	8.95	9.07	9.34	9.27
UK*	8.99	9.17	8.84	8.25	8.43	8.42	7.86	8.23	8.66

# Calculating relative scores

	Your own body	Mean within country
Algeria*		
Colombia*		
Estonia		
Ethiopia	8.69	8.22
Germany		
Israel		
Nepal		
Norway		
Poland*		
Romania		
S Africa*		
S Korea		
Spain*		
Turkey*		
UK*		
Mean within domain	8.58	8.58

Relative score  
= 8.69/8.22  
= 1.06

Predicted score  
= (8.58/8.58) \* 8.22 = 8.22

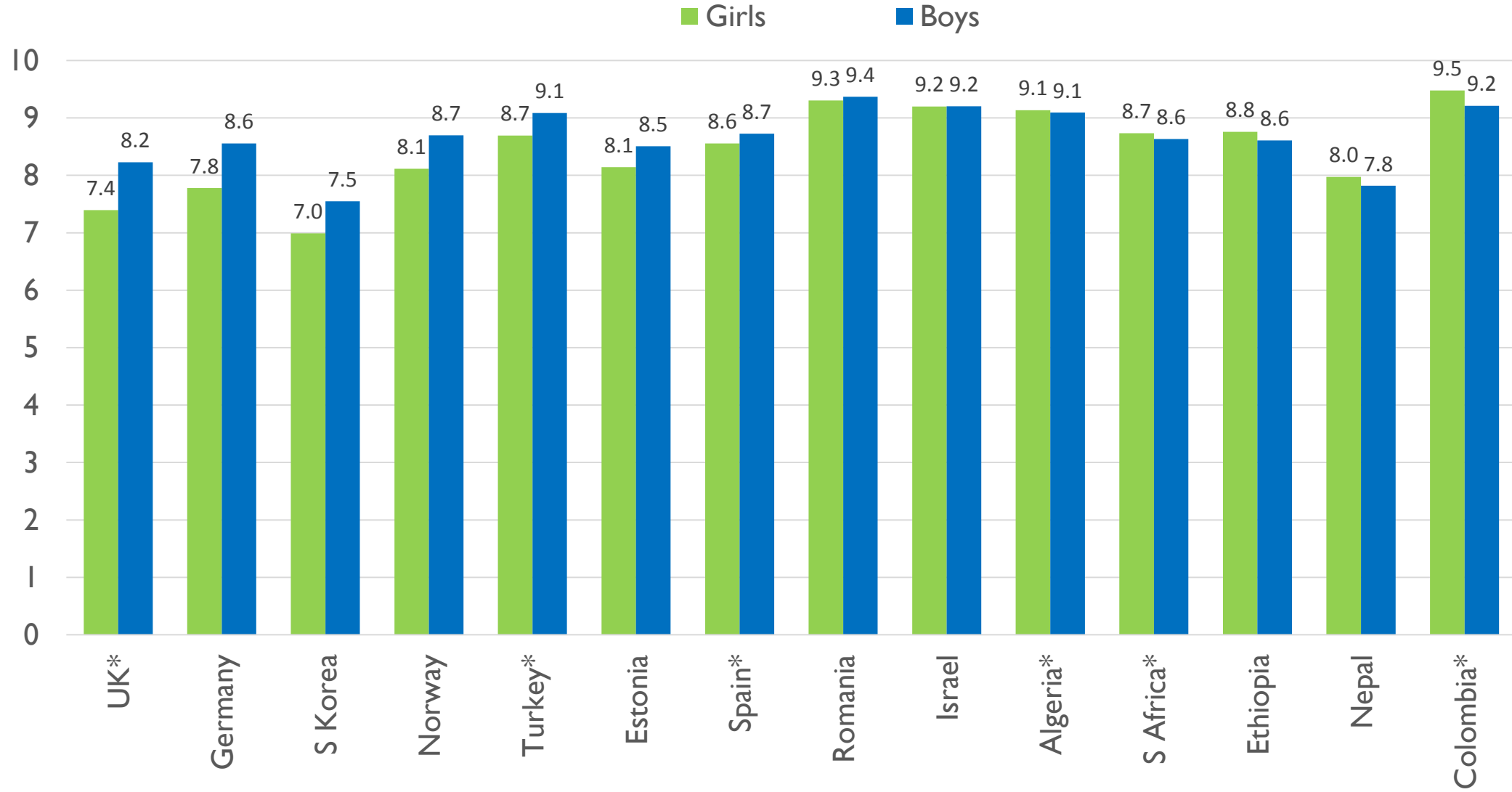


# Relative scores for selected aspects of life

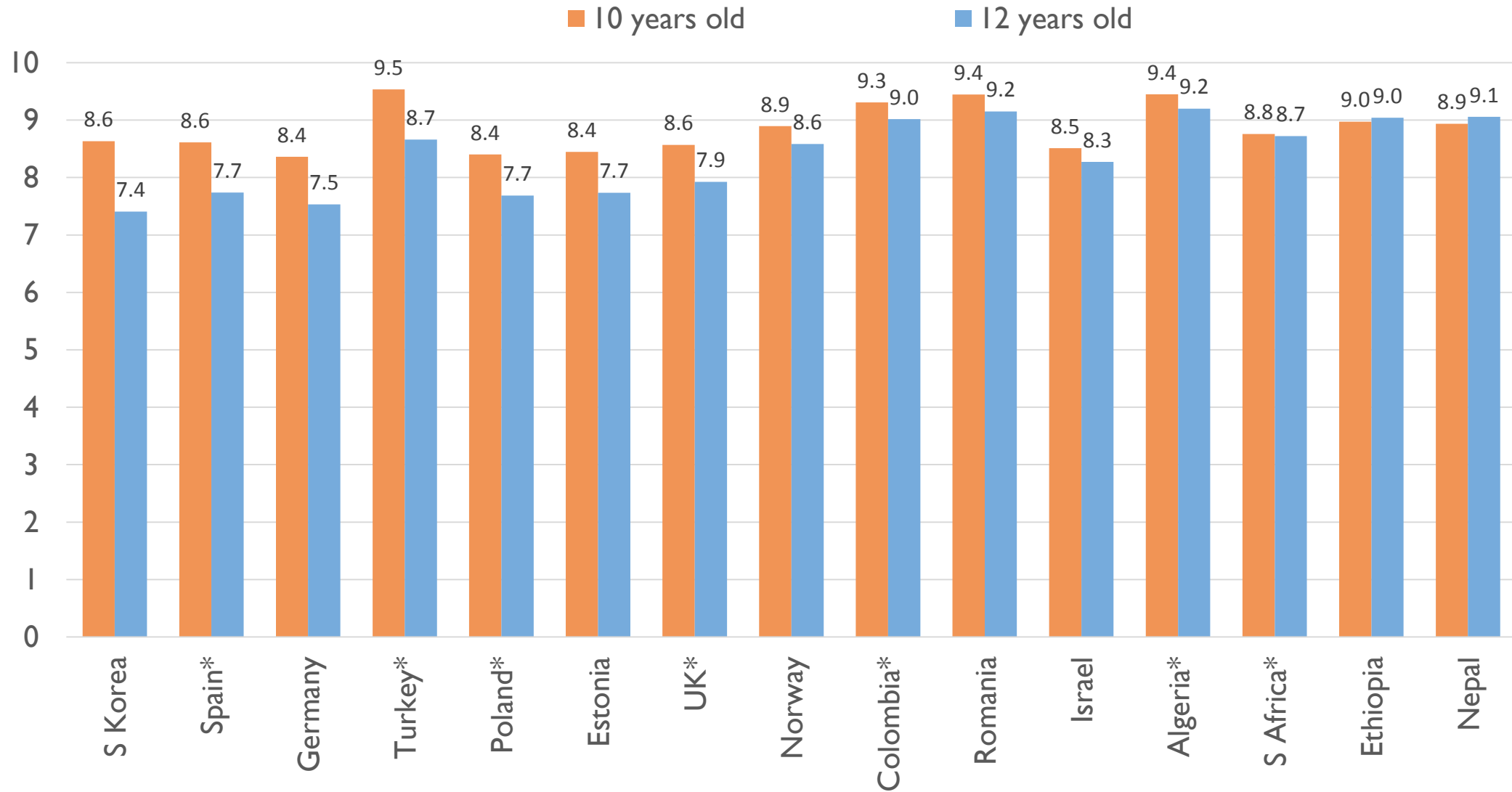
	Family life	Things	Friends	Local area	Life as student	Time use	Body	The future
Algeria*	1.03	0.90	0.97	0.96	1.08	0.97	1.01	1.05
Colombia*	0.99	1.01	0.96	1.01	1.02	1.01	1.06	1.05
Estonia	1.02	1.02	1.01	1.02	0.95	1.01	0.97	1.01
Ethiopia	0.96	0.84	0.98	0.98	1.09	1.01	1.06	0.95
Germany	1.00	1.04	1.05	0.93	0.94	1.01	0.95	1.08
Israel	1.00	1.03	0.99	1.01	0.95	1.00	1.04	1.01
Nepal	1.00	1.02	1.02	1.03	1.08	1.01	1.04	0.71
Norway	0.97	1.01	1.01	1.05	0.97	0.96	0.92	1.01
Poland*	1.00	1.03	0.97	1.02	0.93	1.01	0.97	1.06
Romania	0.98	1.00	0.96	1.02	1.01	1.00	1.02	0.99
S Africa*	1.02	1.01	0.99	0.94	1.05	1.01	1.07	0.97
S Korea	1.03	1.02	1.04	1.00	0.99	0.98	0.92	1.01
Spain*	0.99	1.03	1.02	1.01	0.94	0.99	1.00	1.02
Turkey*	1.00	0.98	0.98	1.00	1.01	1.00	1.01	1.06
UK*	1.00	1.05	1.03	1.01	0.98	1.00	0.94	0.99

# **Sub-group differences**

# Gender and appearance

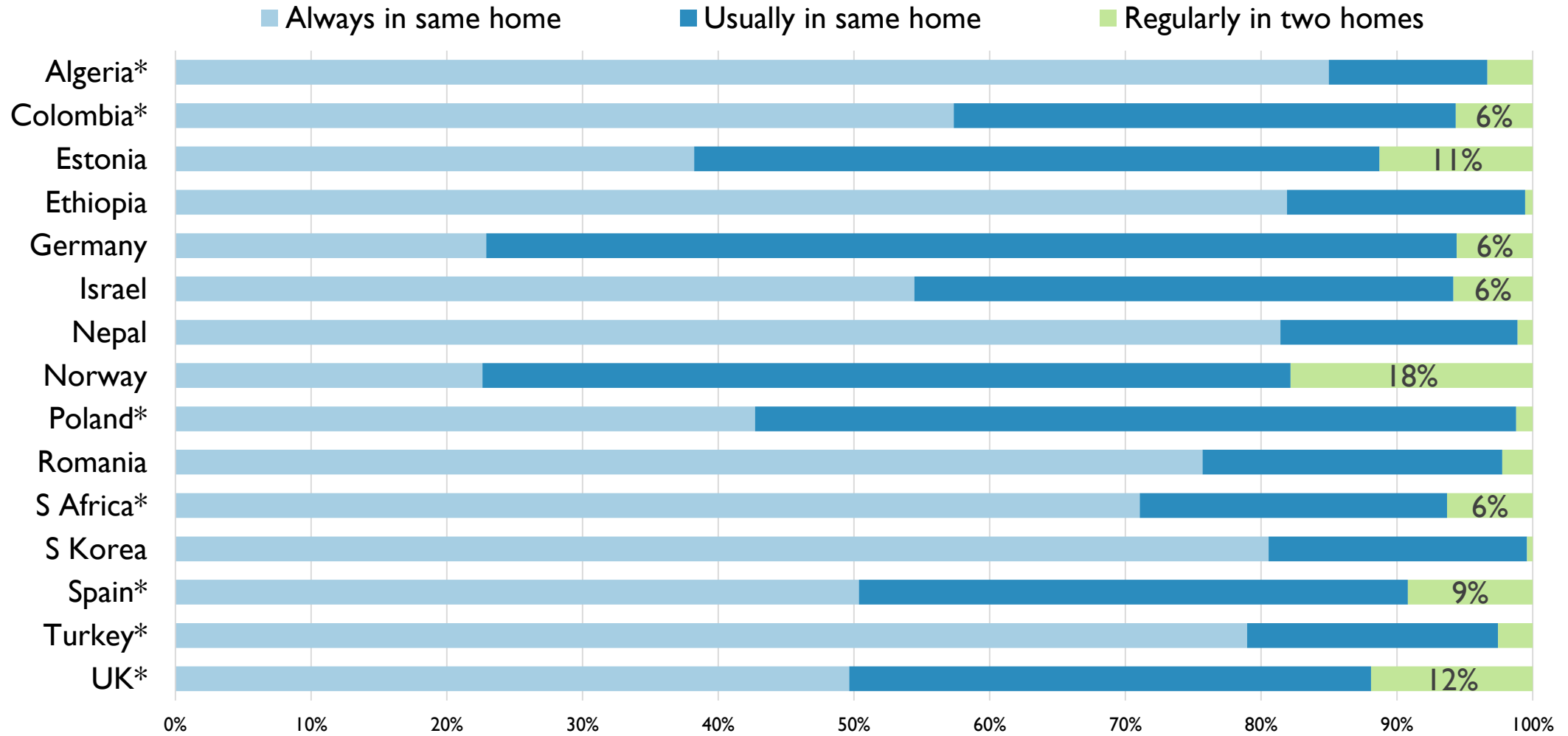


# Age group and 'life as a student'

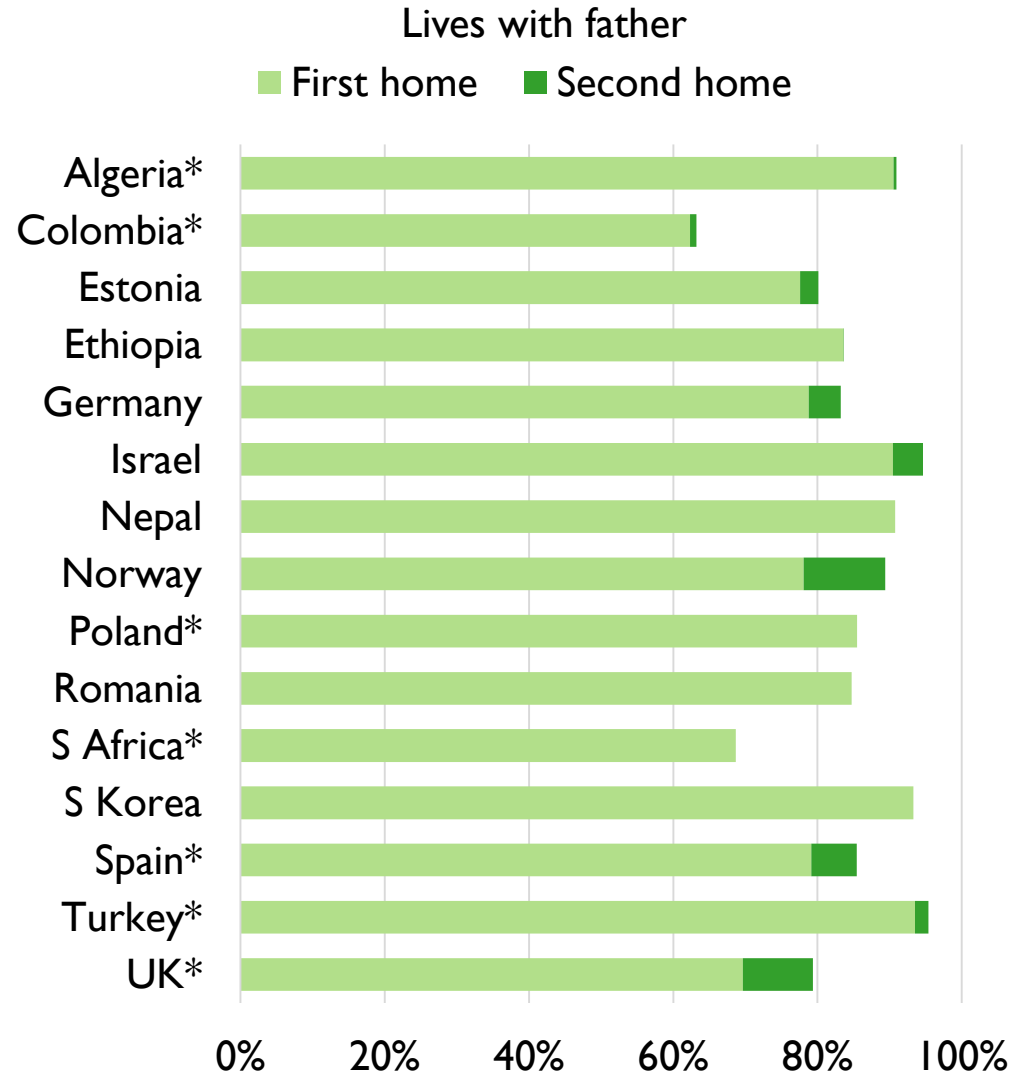
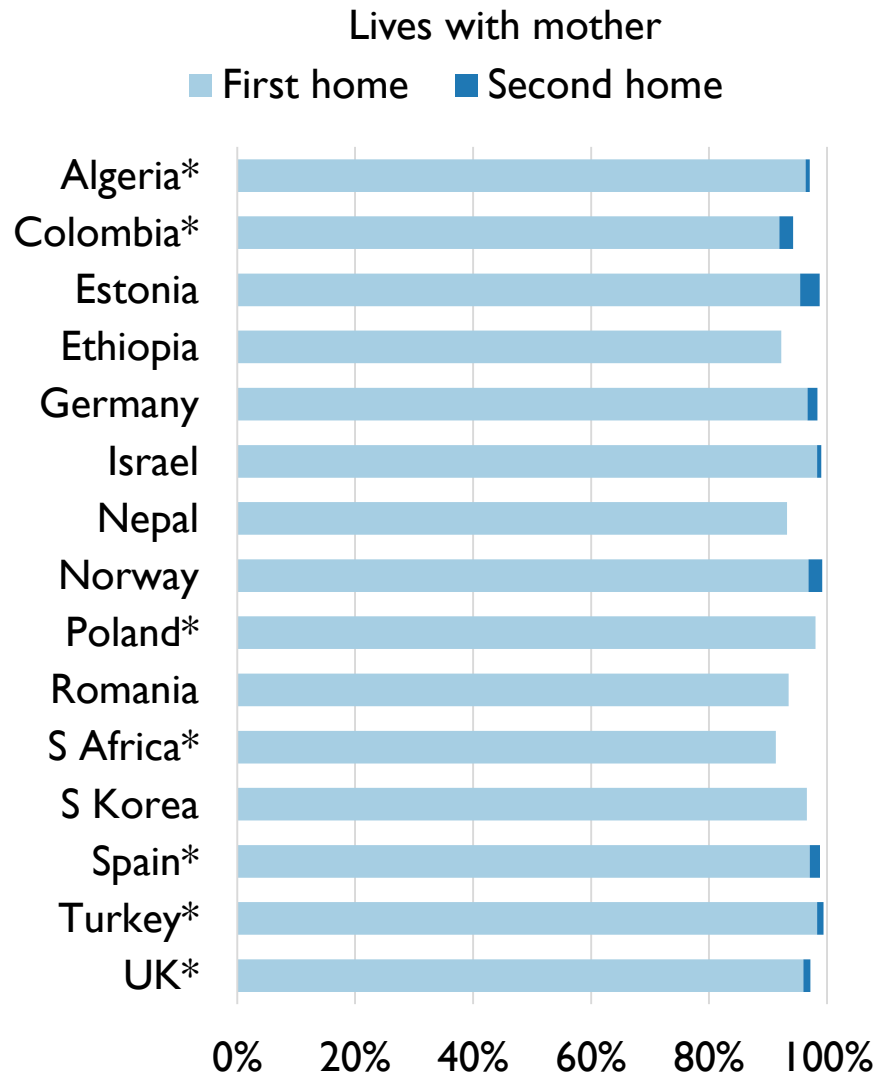


# **The context of children's lives**

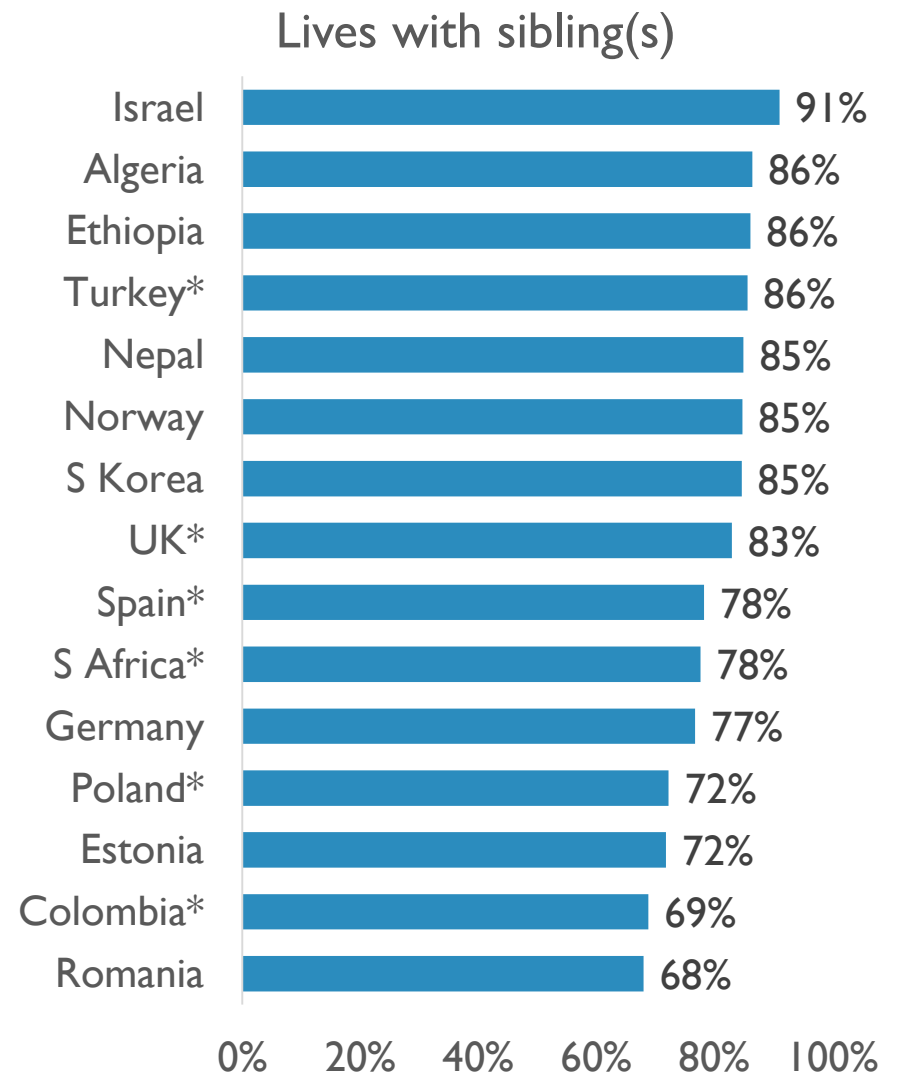
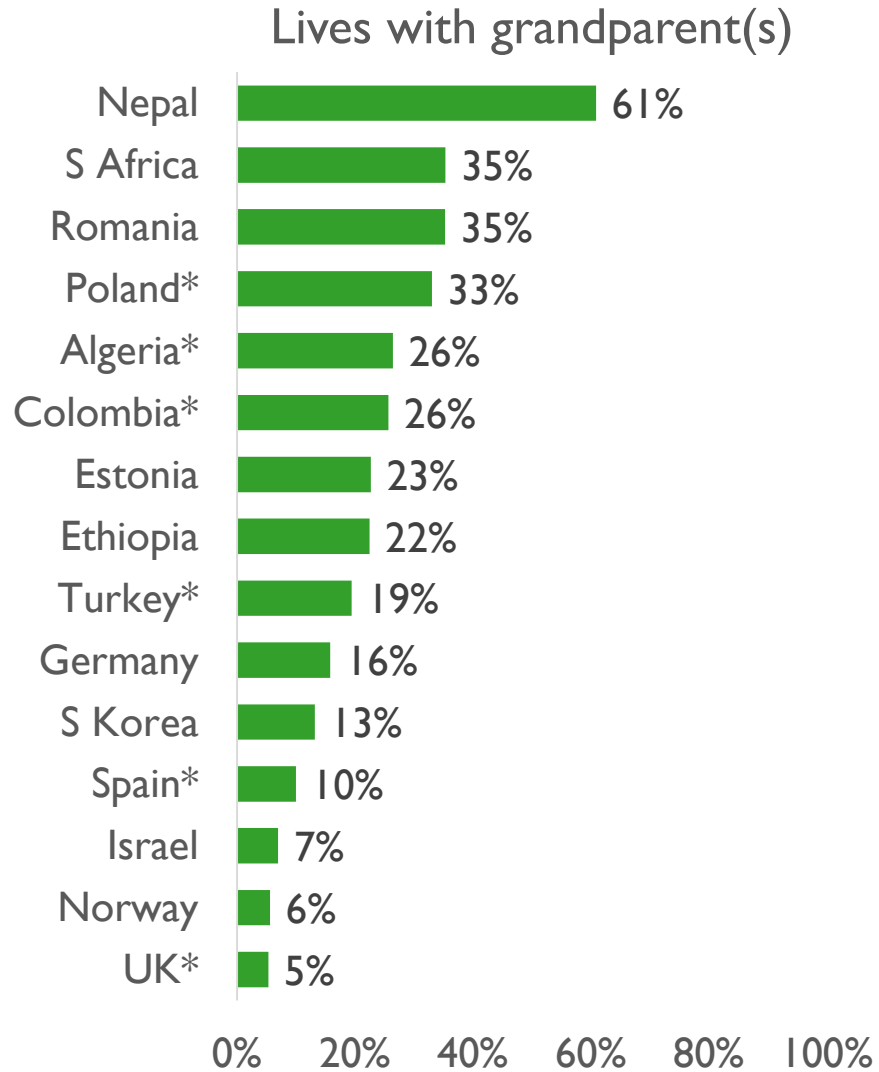
# Children living in two homes



# Living with mothers and fathers



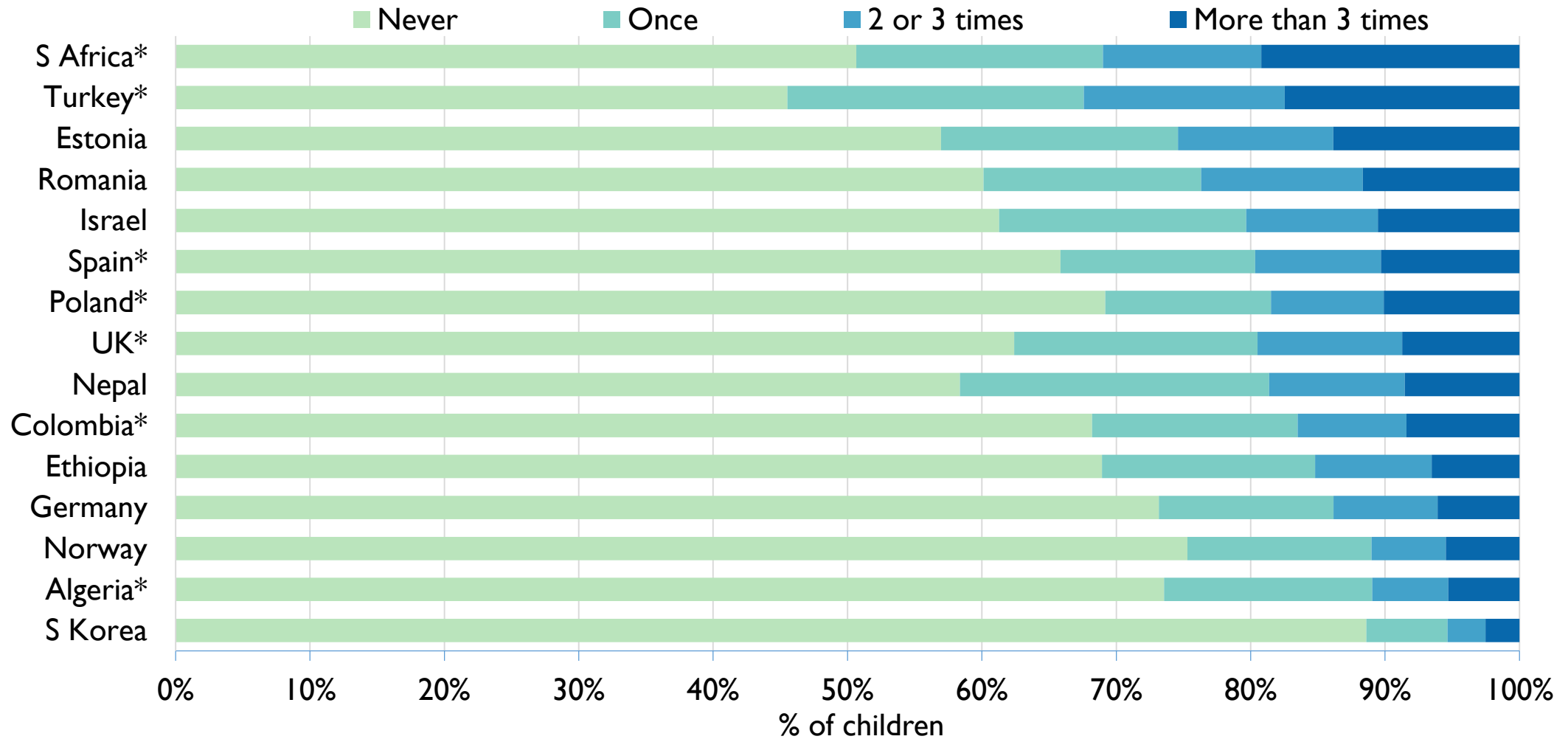
# Living with grandparent and siblings



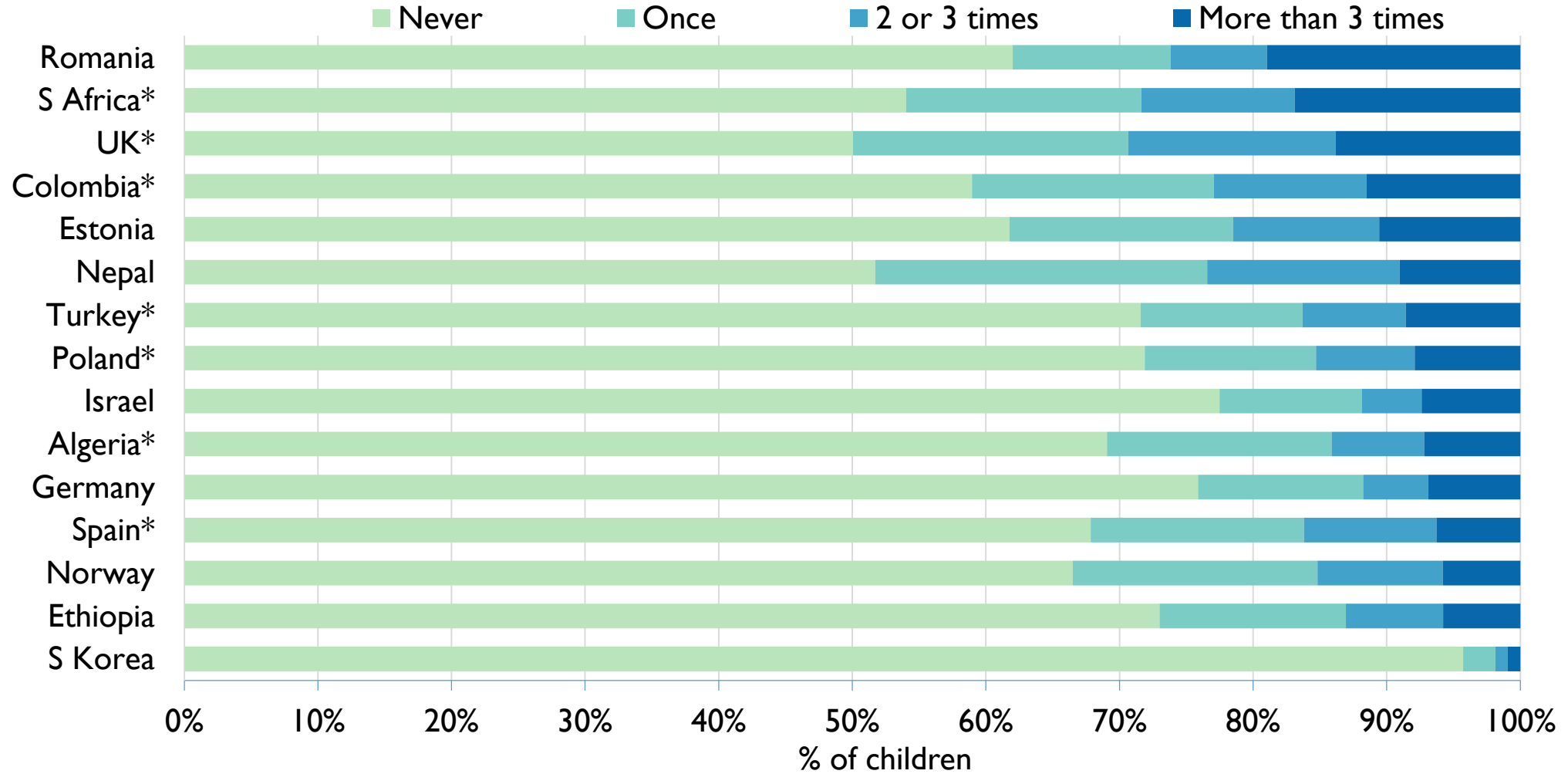


# Bullying

# Bullying: Being hit by other children



# Bullying: Being left out by classmates



# Time use

# Time use: Response differences

Country	Mean response (0 to 3)
Spain*	2.14
S Africa*	2.13
Estonia	2.11
Israel	2.08
UK*	2.04
Colombia*	2.02
Norway	1.98
Poland*	1.98
Romania	1.86
Turkey*	1.83
Algeria*	1.82
Germany	1.82
Nepal	1.67
S Korea	1.60
Ethiopia	1.44

Is this variation:

- a) Due to cultural response differences?
- b) Due to us missing key activities?

# Countries doing each activity most and least

	Absolute means		Relative scores	
	Most	Least	Most	Least
Watch TV	Estonia	Ethiopia	S Korea	Ethiopia
Use computer	Estonia	Ethiopia	Estonia	Ethiopia
By self	UK	Ethiopia	UK	Romania
Classes	Estonia	UK	Germany	UK
Org. leisure	S Africa	S Korea	S Africa	S Korea
Sports/Exercise	Poland	Ethiopia	Germany	Algeria
Help house	Nepal	Turkey	Ethiopia	Turkey
Care family	Algeria	Germany	Ethiopia	Germany
Homework	Estonia	UK	Ethiopia	UK
Read for fun	Turkey	Ethiopia	Turkey/Nepal	Ethiopia

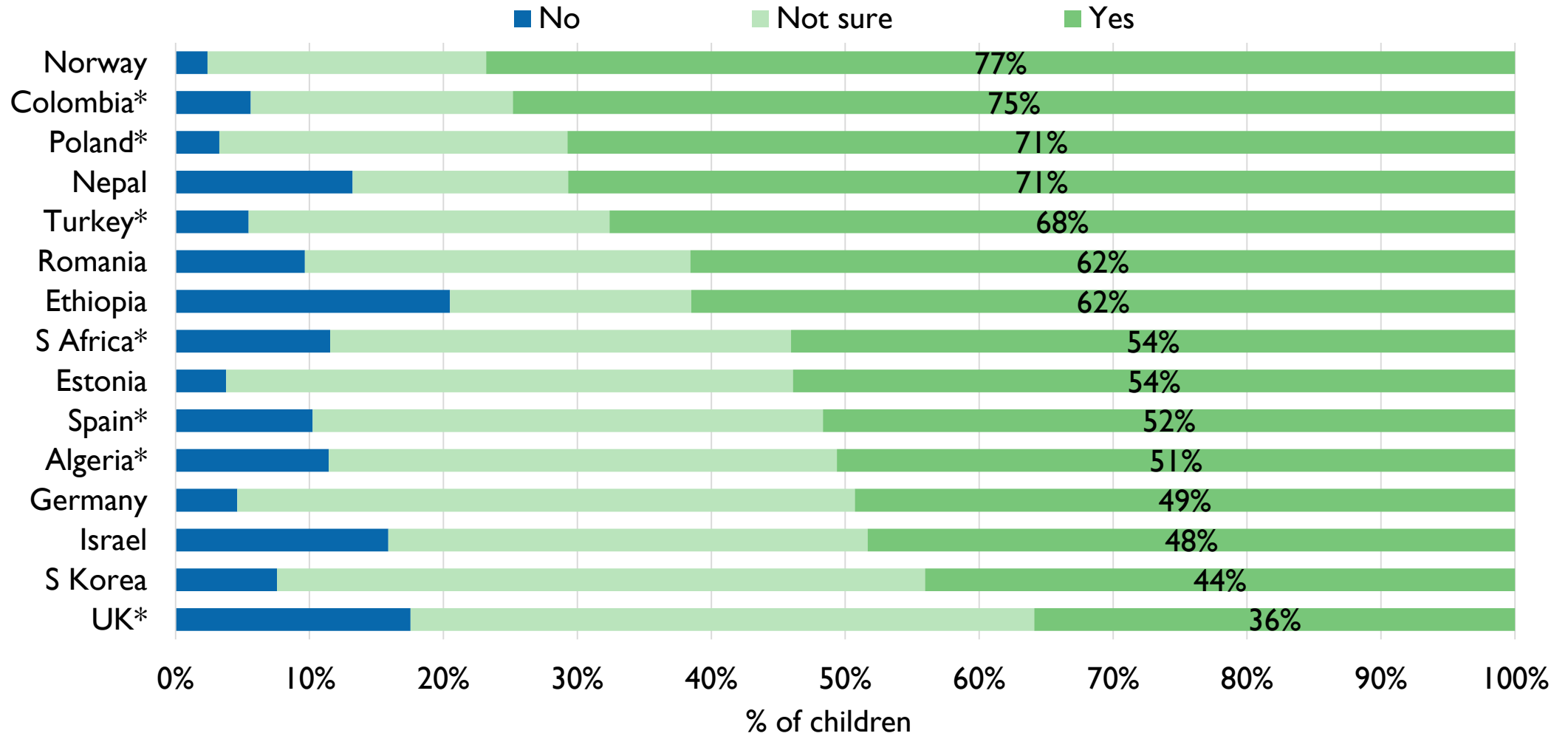
# Time use: Gender differences

	TV	Comp- puter	By self	Classes	Org. leisure	Sports/ Exercise	Help house	Care family	Home work	Reading for fun
Algeria*		B		B		B	G			
Colombia*						B	G		G	
Estonia		B					G			G
Ethiopia						B				
Germany		B				B				
Israel						B				G
Nepal										
Norway		B				B		B		G
Poland*		B					G			G
Romania		B				B	G			G
S Africa*						B				
S Korea	G	B			B	B				
Spain*			G	B		B				G
Turkey*		B				B	G		G	
UK*						B				G

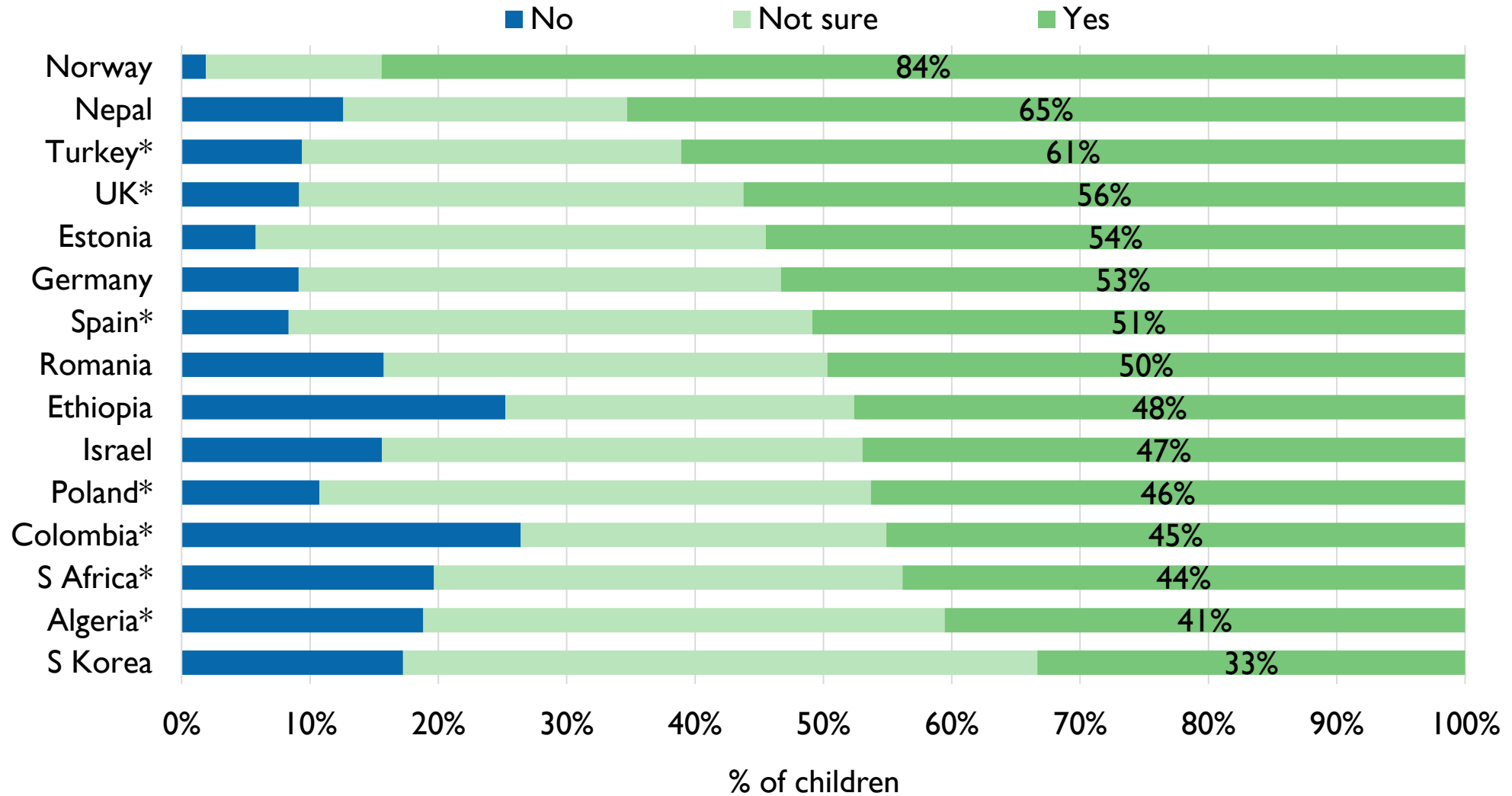
# Children's rights



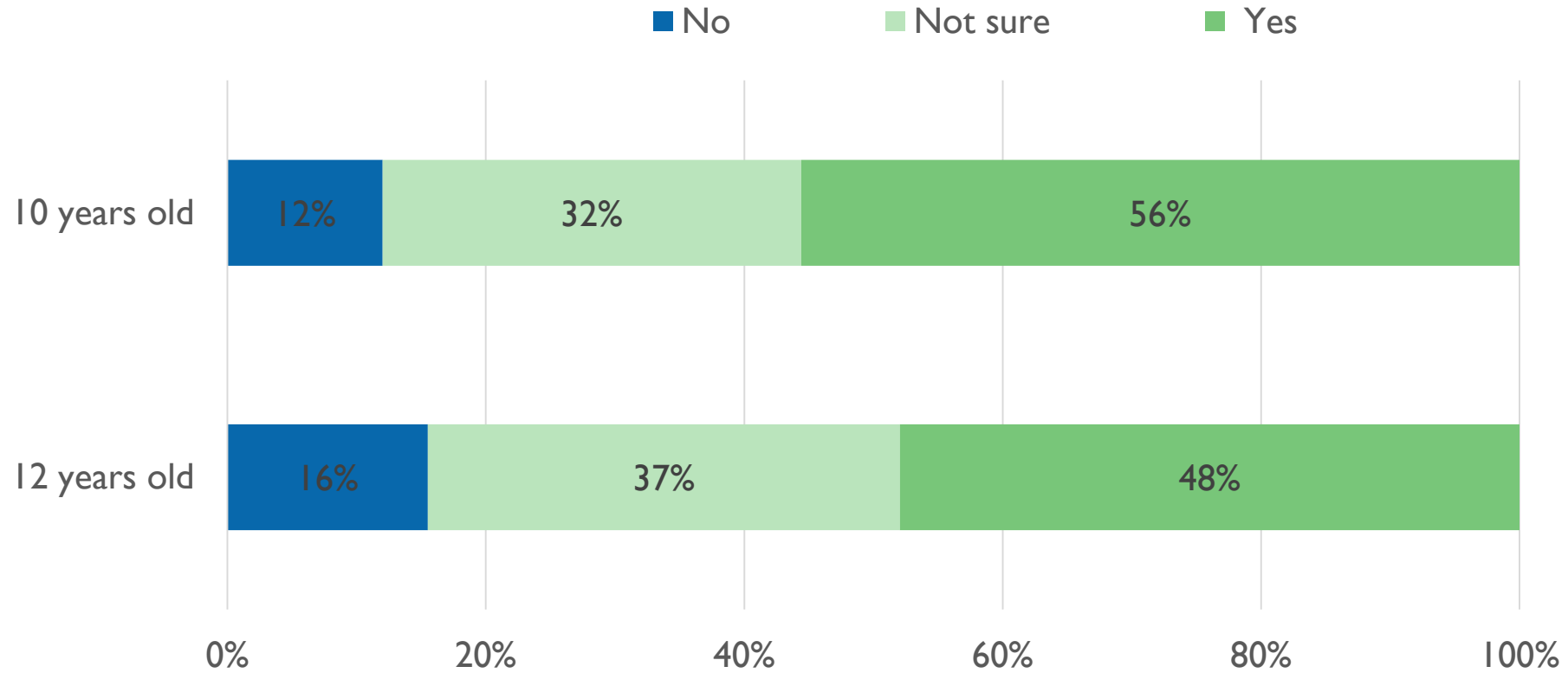
# Knowledge of children's rights



# Do adults respect children's rights?



# Do adults respect children's rights?



# Some future analysis priorities

- Publishing findings on 8-year-old data set
- Validating scales and measures
- Exploring the structure of subjective well-being
- Explaining variations at the individual level
- Explaining variations at the national level

# Some further research priorities

- Cultural response issues
- Extending the number of countries
- Broadening the age range
- Inclusion of marginalised groups
- Reviewing topics and questions
- Longitudinal research
- Considering how best to make cross-national comparisons